

Stoics & Sceptics

02/14

1. Dialectics
 - a. Science of arguing correctly with question and answer format
 - b. Reasoning-system of assumptions and conclusions
 - c. Demonstration - moving from what is more known to what is less known
 - d. Perception - impression produced upon the mind
 - i. Comprehensible perception- produced by a real object, conformable to that object
 - ii. Incomprehensible perception - no relation to real object, only vague and indistinct representation
 - iii. Truth of facts - understanding of a thing that can't exist without perception
 - iv. Like a seal pressed on wax
 - v. Sensible perceptions - emanate directly from thought
 - e. Sensation - energy or active exercise of the sense
 - f. Without dialectics the wise man can't be dangerous as an arguer
 - g. All affairs are looked at as speculation which proceeds by an argument
 - i. Includes moral and natural philosophy
2. Inclinations
 - a. Reason is given to rational animals
 - i. Those who live according to reason, live according to nature
 1. Those who live according to nature live according to virtue
 - a. Virtue: disposition of mind that is always consistent and harmonious
 - i. Brings happiness, harmony of soul, consistently with universal nature
 - ii. Individual natures live according to universal nature
 - b. Good, Bad, Indifferent
 - i. The good: virtue/duty
 - ii. The bad: unreasonable passions
 - iii. The indifferent: things that are not bad in themselves
 1. Health/wealth
3. Stoics Philosophy
 - a. 2 general principles
 - i. Active
 1. Reason which exists in the universe, God
 - a. Eternal, existing through all matter, makes everything
 2. Passive
 - a. Matter, existence without any distinctive quality
 - b. Principles vs Elements
 - i. Principles - no generation, no beginning, no forms
 - ii. Elements - susceptible to destruction, out of which things are produced, and all things are dissolved
 - c. God -Mind, Fate, Jupiter etc
 - i. In the beginning, by himself
 - ii. God makes the elements (fire, water, air, earth)
 - iii. World is inhabited/regulated according to intellect and providence
 1. Mind penetrates every part of world
4. Pyrrho
 - a. ~360-270 B.C.
 - b. Sceptic
 - c. Introduced incomprehensibility/need to suspend one's judgement

- d. Originally no reputation/poor man
 - e. Let Anaxarchus fall into pond without help
 - i. Later Anaxarchus praises him for his indifference and lack of emotion
5. Doctrine of Incomprehensibility
- a. Suspend one's judgement
 - b. Nothing is honorable or disgraceful, just or unjust
 - c. No truth, men do everything in consequence of custom or law
 - d. Skeptics overthrow doctrines of others, affirm nothing
 - i. Reason is the instrument, can't be overturned without using reason
 - ii. Words are used demonstratively, not dogmatically
 - e. Chief good is suspension of judgment which leads to tranquility of mind